



News Release

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Hay market reporter referring callers to KFB Hay and Pasture Exchange

TOPEKA - No one tracks the Kansas hay market quite as closely as Steve Hessman, so it's no wonder that livestock producers in drought-stricken counties call him when they are looking for hay to buy.

In years past, Hessman, a Kansas Department of Agriculture employee, would offer to send a list of hay sellers to those who asked. This year, he is directing callers to the Hay and Pasture Exchange on Kansas Farm Bureau's Web site.

"The information on the Farm Bureau Web site is updated daily, so it's always current," said Hessman, who spends his days on the telephone gathering information to publish in a semiweekly hay market report financed by the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

The Hay and Pasture Exchange is a cooperative effort between Kansas Farm Bureau and Kansas State University's Research & Extension Service. It is an interactive service that allows producers with weather-related hay and pasture deficiencies to post their needs, and to view a list of producers willing to offer valuable hay and pasture.

"I commend Farm Bureau for meeting Kansas livestock producers' needs with its Hay and Pasture Exchange," said Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Jamie Clover Adams. "Some of our producers out west are having a tough time, so their information exchange is especially timely and helpful."

The Hay and Pasture Exchange can be found on the Kansas Farm Bureau Web site at www.kfb.org/hayandpasture.htm.

More drought-related information, including links to federal disaster assistance programs, is available on the Kansas Department of Agriculture Web site at www.accesskansas.org/kda.